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1947 - 1948

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eso

Concerts 896 and 897

GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL'S ORATORIO

THE MESSIAH

183rd AND 184th PERFORMANCE BY THIS SOCIETY

Under the Auspices of
MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE
OF THE
NATIONAL CATHEDRAL ASSOCIATION

Symphony Hall, Boston
Sunday Evening, December 14, 1947
Monday Evening, December 15, 1947
at 8:30

SOLOISTS

ALICE FARNSWORTH, Soprano

ELLEN REPP, Contralto

PAUL KNOWLES, Tenor

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CHICKERING PIANOS used exclusively by the HANDEL AND HAYDN SOCIETY.

Piano furnished through courtesy of AMPICO HALL

It is requested that there be no applause except at the end of Part One and at the conclusion of the performance.

GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL

Born in Halle, February 23, 1685

Died in London, April 13, 1759

THE MESSIAH

ORATORIO, composed in 1741; begun August 22, finished September 14. Text selected from the Scriptures by CHARLES JENNENS. Produced in Dublin, April 13, 1742, under the direction of HANDEL. Additional accompaniments by MOZART, 1789; and by ROBERT FRANZ, for the use of the Handel and Haydn Society, completed and published in 1884. First performance by the Handel and Haydn Society, December 25, 1818, in Boylston Hall; present performances are the 181st and 182nd.

PART ONE

THE PROPHECIES AND THE FULFILLMENT

1. Overture (grave: Allegro Moderate Fugue).

TENOR RECITATIVE

2. Comfort ye my people, saith your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord: make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

ARIA

3. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low: the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

CHORUS

4. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed; and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

BASS RECITATIVE

5. Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: Yet once a little while, and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come; the Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant whom ye delight in; behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

ALTO RECITATIVE

6. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name EM-MANUEL. God with us.

CHORUS

7. O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, good tidings to Jerusalem, arise, say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

BASS RECITATIVE

8. For behold darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee and His glory shall be seen upon thee, and the Gentiles shall come to Thy light, and kings to the brightness of Thy rising.

ARIA

9. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath light shined.

CHORUS

10. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

A MESSAGE

on

THE WASHINGTON CATHEDRAL from

RIGHT REVEREND ANGUS DUN Bishop of Washington

A Cathedral is meant to be in a special sense a House of Prayer for all people, where the needs and sins and hopes and fears of all God's people in a great human community can be brought before God and seen in His light.

Washington Cathedral occupies a unique place because it is in the Capital of our country. It bears the names of St. Peter and St. Paul. That binds it to the ancient Church. It bears, too, the name of Washington; that binds it to the life of our country and to its history.

Those who conceived of this Cathedral, and those who have helped to build it thus far, dared to dream of it as a hallowing influence within this whole land. Washington is a place of pilgrimage for all the people of the United States. Every year thousands of Americans come here to stand in the presence of the great symbols of our national life. They come to see the Capitol and the Declaration of Independence and the White House and the Court dedicated to justice under law. They come to have refreshed the memories of Washington and Jefferson and Lincoln. They go home again more proud to be Americans.

We want Washington Cathedral to be a commanding, outward and visible sign that America knows that Peter and Paul and St. Francis and Wesley and John Bunyan and Phillips Brooks are part of our history too, and that above them all towers the Christ as Lord of all.

Angus Dun,
Bishop of Wahington

11. Pastoral Symphony (on the traditional air of the Calabrian pifferari).

SOPRANO RECITATIVE

- 12. There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.
- 13. And lo! the angel of the Lord came upon them; and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.
- 14. And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.
- 15. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying:

CHORUS

16. Glory to God in the highest; and peace on earth, good will towards men.

SOPRANO ARIA

17. Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold thy King cometh unto thee! He is the righteous Savior; and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

ALTO RECITATIVE

18. Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened; and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

ALTO AND SOPRANO ARIA

!9. He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom; and gently lead those that are with young. . . . Come unto Him, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and He will give you rest; Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him; for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

CHORUS

20. His yoke is easy, and his burden is light.

END OF PART ONE

INTERMISSION

PART TWO

THE PASSION AND THE TRIUMPH

CHORUS

21. Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.

ALTO ARIA

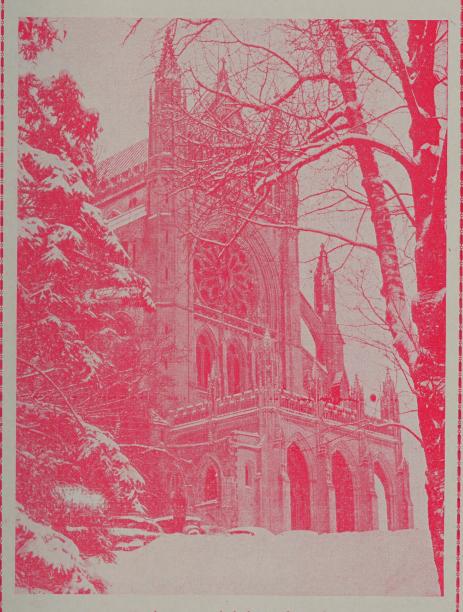
22. He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

TENOR RECITATIVE

24. Thy rebuke hath broken His heart; He is full of heaviness; He looked for some to have pity on Him, but there was no man; neither found He any to comfort Him.

ARIA

25. Behold and see, if there be any sorrow like unto His sorrow.



Washington Cathedral, North Porch

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TENOR RECITATIVE

26. He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of Thy people was He stricken.

ARIA

But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell; nor didst Thou suffer Thy Holy One to 27. see corruption.

CHORUS

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the 28. King of Glory shall come in. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.

BASS ARIA

29. Why do the nations so furiously rage together; and why do the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His anointed.

CHORUS

30. Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yokes from us.

CHORUS

31. Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, HALLE-LUJAH!

SOPRANO ARIA

32. I know that my Redeemer liveth; and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

BASS RECITATIVE

33. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep; but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinking of an eye, at the last trumpet.

ARIA

The trumpet shall sound; and the dead shall be raised incorruptible; and we shall 34. be changed.

CHORUS

- 35. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain and hath redeemed us to God by His blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength and honour, and glory, and blessing. Blessing and honour, glory and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, forever and ever.
- 36. Amen!

THE PERMANENT FUND

of the Handel and Hayda Society was established by a deed of trust on May 28, 1866. The net proceeds of the Great Festival of May 1865, at the end of the Civil War, furnished the foundation of the Fund, and it has grown slowly by gifts and bequests.

Only the income of the Fund can be used for the benefit of the Society.

This oldest large choral society in America has had a prominent part in the musical life of Boston for 133 years. Gifts to the Fund will be welcome at Christmas time or at any other time. They are deductible from taxable income.

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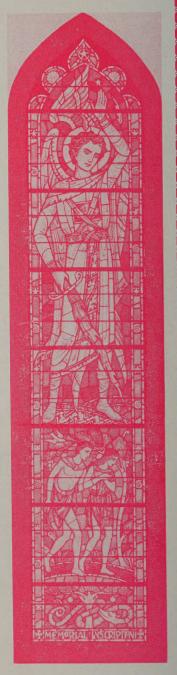
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Detail of Garden of Eden Wind w To be installed in the North Choir Clerestory

The National Cathedral Association

The National Cathedral Association is a nationwide fellowship of friends of Washington Cathedral, organized in 1899. Since the date of its founding thousands of men and women have joined its ranks and carried on the work with courage, determination and faith.

Members of the National Cathedral Association have helped build the cathedral. They have supported it—advocated it—prayed for it. It is due to their faith and their vision no less than to their generosity that the cathedral has come this far toward completion.

In the last 50 years many distinguished persons have shared in the leadership of this association—turning back the pages one sees such names as Henry White, John J. Pershing, Andrew Mellon. Today the President of the National Cathedral Association is the Hon. Joseph C. Grew.

Mr. Grew's distinguished career is already well known to Americans everywhere. The National Cathedral Association under his presidency will continue to advance the cause of Washington Cathedral with the same broad vision and faith that has characterized its progress thus far.

The Massachusetts Committee of the National Cathedral Association will be happy to have you join the association.

Please enroll me as a member of the National Cathedral Association, an organization composed of friends of Washington Cathedral. I understand this includes a subscription to The Cathedral Age illustrated quarterly magazine.

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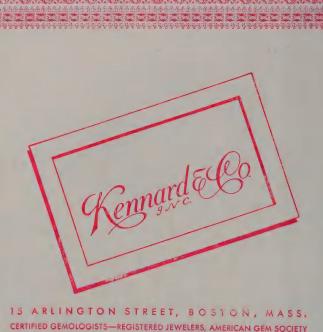
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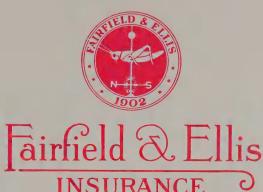
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CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 A.M. Holy Communion, Choir and Carols

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The Holly and the lvy
The Virgin's Cradle Hymn
A Carol
Come and Thank Him (Christmas Oratorio)J. S. Bach
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11 P. M.—MIDNIGHT FESTAL SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
Music of the Mass
The Shepherd's Story

CHRISTMAS DAY
8 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION—Chapel
11 A.M.—Holy Communion and Sermon

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Sunday, December 21

4:30 P.M. The Christmas Mystery (in the chancel of the Church)
CHRISTMAS EVE

11 P.M. THE MIDNIGHT EUCHARIST, Choir and Carols CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 A.M. FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Holy Communion, choir and carols Address by the Rector

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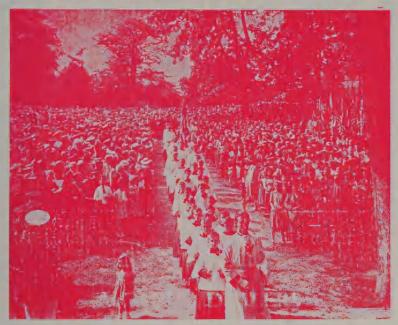
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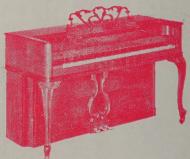
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